

LaBOUNTY SITE

(Charles City, Iowa)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The site covers 12-acres within the corporate limits of Charles City, Iowa. It is located on the Cedar River and is generally described as the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 7, T95N, R15W, Floyd County, Iowa. The site was entered on the Registry in 1984. The site was on the National Priorities List (NPL) from September 1983 to October 1993.

SITE CLASSIFICATION

In 1996 the site was re-classified to "d" Site Properly Closed Requires Continued Management.

TYPE AND QUANTITY OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

Between 1953 and 1977 Salsbury Laboratories disposed of about 240,000 cubic yards of waste at the site. The waste is estimated to have included 3,000 tons of arsenic, 140 tons of nitrobenzene, 35 tons of 1,1,2-trichloroethane, and 13.5 tons of phenols. Twenty-three hazardous substances have been identified from groundwater monitoring.

SUMMARY OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Leaching of chemicals from the site has caused contamination of the Upper Cedar Valley Aquifer in the immediate area of the site. The contaminated part of the aquifer is not used as a source of drinking water. After flowing through the site, the groundwater discharges to the Cedar River. The diversion wall has reduced the amount of groundwater flow through the site in the Upper Cedar Valley Aquifer.

SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT, MONITORING OR REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The EPA is responsible for oversight. Initial investigations by the EPA and the department showed that the site was releasing arsenic, 1,1,2-trichloroethane, and other contaminants to the Cedar River. As a result of these investigations, the EPA required Salsbury to complete a two-phase remedial action and monitoring program.

Phase I of the remedial action plan (completed in 1979) initiated monitoring the Cedar River and ground water. Salsbury implemented Phase II in 1980, which included capping the site with clay and diverting surface water around the site.

A 1982 National Enforcement Investigation Center report determined additional remedial measures were necessary. The report concluded capping had not effectively reduced the leaching of contaminants during groundwater flow through the site. In 1985 a feasibility study determined a groundwater control structure would be the most appropriate remedial measure. This "wall" was designed to reduce the amount of groundwater flow through the site.

A 1985 EPA consent order required the construction of this wall, and water withdrawal from the upgradient side of the wall. The wall was completed in January 1986. Three Cedar Valley Aquifer monitoring wells and six cutoff monitoring wells also were completed in January 1986.

Arsenic concentrations in the Cedar River are higher downstream of the LaBounty site than they are upstream of the site. However, downstream concentrations of arsenic have averaged less than 10 ug/L in recent years compared to the Iowa Stream Water Quality Standard of 50 ug/L.

The site continues to be monitored quarterly. Inspections are conducted quarterly to insure the integrity of monitoring wells and other site features. The EPA conducts an in-depth review of the site every 5 years. The most recent 5-year review was completed in November of 2005. This third 5-year review concluded that the remedy implemented at the site remains protective of human health and the environment.

